

PRESS RELEASE

May 30, 2006

RE: UNITED STATES v. JEROME TRIMPER

United States Attorney Terrance P. Flynn announced that Jerome Trimper, 38, of Cheektowaga, New York, pled guilty in federal court today to disclosing a Social Security number in furtherance of a federal offense. The maximum penalty is five years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. The guilty plea was entered before U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny.

Assistant U.S. Attorney William J. Gillmeister said that Jerome Trimper admitted that, while he was employed at M&T Bank, in 2005, he used a bank computer to obtain a Social Security number that he passed to his brother, Joseph T. Trimper, Jr., who, as a Senior Welfare Examiner with the Erie County Department of Social Services, used an emergency rental assistance program, funded in part with federal money, to steal more than \$86,000 from the County. Gillmeister said Joseph T. Trimper, Jr., used the Social Security number that was disclosed to him by his brother, Jerome Trimper, to set up a "landlord account," and then fabricated fictitious claims for rental assistance, supposedly necessitated by threats of tenants' immediate evictions. The claims for rental assistance, after being approved, would result in checks payable to the landlord accounts. In the Plea Agreement signed by Jerome Trimper today, Trimper admitted taking a Social Security number from the confidential records of the bank where he was employed knowing that

his brother was planning to use the Social Security number to steal money.

Joseph T. Trimper, Jr., and Jerome Trimper were charged last November in separate federal criminal complaints as a result of this investigation. Judge Skretny will impose sentence upon Jerome Trimper on October 24, 2006. Joseph T. Trimper, Jr., entered a guilty plea to related charges before Judge Skretny in April of 2006 and he is scheduled to be sentenced August 29, 2006.

The guilty pleas were the result of an investigation initiated by the Special Investigations Division, Erie County Department of Social Services, under the direction of Senior Special Investigator Linda S. Smith, and conducted jointly with the United States Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Resident Agent In Charge Stephen J. Petro.